

## Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, December 7, 1818, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO PRESIDENT MONROE.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Parton 's *Jackson*, II. 526.

Hermitage, December 7, 1818.

*Dear sir:* I have just received your message to both Houses of Congress, forwarded by you, and have read it with great attention and satisfaction.<sup>2</sup> The Florida question being now fairly before Congress, I hope that body will take measures to secure our southern frontier from a repetition of massacre and murder.

<sup>2</sup> With the message went a number of documents relating to "the Defeat of the Seminole Indians". See *Annals of Congress*, 15th Cong., 2d sess., appendix, pp. 2136 to 2379. Feb. 22, 1819, the President submitted to the Senate the treaty, with Spain, accompanying it with many documents, some of them relating to the invasion of Florida by Jackson. *Ibid.*, pp. 1818–2136, *passim*.

From the report of Colonel King, received and forwarded to the Department of War, you will discover that the Indians had concentrated their forces on the Choctaw Hotchy, which gave rise to the affair between them and Captain Boyles, which Colonel King reports.

The collection of the Indians is said to have taken place at this point on their hearing that Pensacola was to be restored to Spain, and that the Indians have declared they will never submit to the United States. If this be the fact, and as to myself I have no doubt, so soon as Spain is in the possession of Pensacola, we may expect to hear of a renewal of all

## Library of Congress

the horrid scenes of massacre on our frontier that existed before the campaign, unless Captain Boyles, on his second visit, may be fortunate enough to destroy this operation, which, you may rely, springs from foreign excitement. . . .